

Calls For House Vote Before Congressional Recess

Washington, DC – Continuing his fight for a border security funding surge, today Congressman Harry Teague introduced a bill that would provide critical border security resources stripped out of the Supplemental Appropriations Act by the Senate. Teague, joined by Representatives Ciro Rodriguez (D-TX), Gabrielle Giffords (D-AZ) and David Price (D-NC), introduced HR 5875 to help keep drug violence in Mexico from spilling over in to the United States and to combat illegal trafficking activities across our border.

The legislation mirrors funding originally passed by the House in the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2010, before being eliminated from the legislation by the Senate. The package bolsters funding for border security efforts, including additional Border Patrol agents and other border enforcement officials, additional resources for local law enforcement agencies located near the border, new forward operating bases for the Border Patrol in New Mexico's Bootheel, and more law enforcement resources to fight drug smuggling and the spillover of drug violence into the U.S. *Calls For House Vote Before Congressional Recess*

"We are profoundly disappointed in the Senate's refusal to include this essential surge for domestic national security efforts. It is simply unacceptable that they failed to take this opportunity to secure our border," said Harry Teague, Vice Chair of the Congressional Border Caucus. "As border violence continues to escalate and threaten the safety of New Mexican families, we can no longer afford to wait to act. The House must now act expeditiously to secure the US-Mexico border, support our local law enforcement and protect our communities."

The introduction of the legislation follows a [letter](#), authored by Teague, Rodriguez and Giffords, sent to House leadership earlier this week calling for work with Senate leaders to reinstate the border security funding and inclusion of the package in any supplemental appropriations legislation for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The House is expected to vote on the legislation later this week, before the House recess.

The standalone surge package would provide:

- 1,200 additional Border Patrol agents deployed between the ports of entry along the Southwest Border.
- 500 additional officers at ports of entry along the Southwest Border and funding to maintain current Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer staffing levels.
- New tactical communications equipment and infrastructure on the Southwest Border, three permanent Border Patrol forward operating bases, and a surge of workforce integrity investigations designed to prevent corruption among CBP officers and agents.
- \$50 million for Operation Stonegarden grants to support local law enforcement activities on the border.
- Two additional CBP unmanned aircraft systems.
- \$30 million for Immigration and Customs Enforcement activities directed at reducing the threat of narcotics smuggling and associated violence.
- \$201 million for Justice Department programs, as requested.

Harry Teague has consistently called for a robust, comprehensive strategy to address the violence along the border. In April, he called on the President to [send the National Guard to the border](#) to address the growing national security threat there and led 50 of his colleagues in [requesting supplemental funding](#) to step up border security, including funding for National Guard on the border. Congressman

Teague has also called on President Barack Obama to

[convene a White House Summit](#)

with the aim of building a policy to address the border violence crisis, ensure that the violence does not spill over into the United States, and help America get back to work building our border economies.

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